

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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TAGS: EAID, BB

SUBJ: BARBADOS FY 1974 SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND ACTIVITIES

FOR AID

1. PURPOSE OF THIS TELEGRAM IS TO APPRISE AID GEORGETOWN OF EMBASSY'S FY 1974 SDAF PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT PROPOSED PROJECTS MEET SDAF CRITERIA, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF NEW LEGISLATION. PROPOSED PROJECTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (US\$)

A) BARBADOS YOUTH ENTERPRISES-\$2,500. PURPOSE OF GRANT WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH METAL WORKING AND WELDING SHOP. B.Y.E. IS PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WITH SOME GOB SUPPORT WHICH TEACHES YOUNG PEOPLE TRADES TO ENABLE THEM TO COMPETE IN MODERN JOB MARKET. ALL OF YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED CAME FROM DISADVANTAGED HOMES, MOST FROM TWO GOB REFORMATORIES. ORGANIZATION RECEIVED SDAF GRANT IN 1973. PRESENT GRANT WOULD BE FOLLOW-ON TO ENABLE BYE TO BUILD AND EQUIP A METAL WORKING AND WELDING SHOP. BYE EXPECTS TO COME UP WITH AT LEAST 25 PERCENT OF MATCHING GRANTS FROM OTHER DONORS. TOTAL COST OF METAL SHOP ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN \$3,000-4,000. GRANT WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATE FAVORABLE IMPACT BY PROVIDING DISADVANTAGE YOUTH WITH MEANS OF STABLE LIVELIHOOD. IT WOULD REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND WOULD ADD NEEDED TECHNICAL SKILLS TO BARBADOS' ECONOMY FOR INFANT MANUFACTURING AND SERVICE INDUSTRIES.

B) BARBADOS AMATEUR ATHELETIC ASSOCIATION (BAAA)-\$1,500. PURPOSE OF GRANT WOULD BE TO PROVIDE ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT (STOP UNCLASSIFIED

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WATCHES, POLE VAULTS, HURDLES, STARTING BLOCKS, ETC.). BAAA

IS PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WHICH ENCOURAGES DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF BARBADIAN ATHLETES, ESPECIALLY IN TRACK AND FIELD AREA. ABOUT 95 PERCENT OF ATHLETES TRAINED UNDER BAAA AUSPICES ARE FROM POORER CLASSES AND WOULD BE UNABLE TO ENGAGE IN COMPETITIVE ATHLETICS WITHOUT BAAA ASSISTANCE. GRANT WOULD HAVE

IMMEDIATE FAVORABLE IMPACT BY HELPING TO PROVIDE ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT THAT WOULD ENABLE POORER YOUTHS TO PURSUE ATHLETIC INCLINATIONS. IT WOULD HELP DEVELOP COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND PROVIDE HEALTHY OUTLET FOR ENERGIES OF LESS FORTUNATE BARBADIAN YOUTH. BAAA EXPECTS TO COME UP WITH 25 PERCENT MATCHING GRANT FROM OTHER PRIVATE DONORS.

C) SOLARDYNAMICS LTD.-\$5,000 TO ASSIST IN LAUNCHING LOCAL PRODUCTION OF SOLAR WATER HEATERS. SOLARDYNAMICS IS PRIVATE FIRM FUNDED BY THREE LOCAL MEN FOR PURPOSE OF PRODUCING SOLAR WATER HEATERS WHICH, ACCORDING TO EXTENSIVE MARKET SURVEY, HAVE GOOD POTENTIAL IN BARBADOS. FIRM HAS RECEIVED GUIDANCE AND SOME ASSISTANCE FROM LOCAL BRANCH OF CHRISTIAN ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN CARIBBEAN (CADEC), WHICH HAS RECOMMENDED PROJECT TO EMBASSY. PROJECT WOULD ASSIST COMMUNITY BY DEVELOPING LOCAL BLACK ENTREPRENEURIAL TALENT, PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT AND BY PRODUCING ITEM WHICH HAS TREMENDOUS SALES POTENTIAL AND WHICH WOULD AID COMMUNITY BY REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED HYDROCARBON ENERGY FOR HEATING WATER. IF VENTURE SUCCESSFUL, SOLARDYNAMICS PLANS TO EXPAND INTO PRODUCTION OF SOLAR OVENS AND COOKERS. SINCE MEN INVOLVED IN PROJECT WOULD EACH PUT UP OVER \$700, AND WOULD PROVIDE ALL LABOR, THIS PROJECT IS COMPLETELY OF SELF-HELP TYPE. SUCCESS OF VENTURE AND ITS EXPANSION WOULD ALSO PROVIDE FURTHER EMPLOYMENT IN BARBADOS ECONOMY. CADEC HAS PROPOSAL THAT GRANT BE MADE THROUGH ITS CHANNELS AND LOANED TO SOLARDYNAMICS AT 5 PERCENT P.A. INTEREST. OR ALTERNATIVELY, EMBASSY COULD MAKE GRANT DIRECTLY TO FIRM. CADEC SUGGESTION SOUNDS REASONABLE AND IT WOULD ENABLE MONEY TO GO ON SERVING DEVELOPMENTAL PURPOSES HERE. WOULD APPRECIATE AID ADVICE AS TO WHETHER SDAF MONEY CAN BE USED IN FASHION PROPOSED BY CADEC.

D) AMATEUR STEEL BAND ORCHESTRA-\$1,000. PURPOSE-FOR PURCHASE OF STEEL BAND INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT. AN AMATEUR STEEL
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BAND GROUP WISHES TO DEVELOP INDIGENOUS MUSIC TO ACHIEVE WIDER ACCEPTANCE BY BARBADIANS OF ALL SOCIAL CLASSES AND STATIONS. STEEL BAND MUSIC HAS FALLEN INTO SOME DISREPUTE HERE BY LOCAL PEOPLE WHO SEE IT AS SOMETHING FOR TOURISTS. AMATEUR STEEL BAND GROUP WISHES TO DEVELOP THIS NEGLECTED ASPECT OF LOCAL CULTURE TO BE MORE WIDELY ACCEPTED BY PLAYING RELIGIOUS, CLASSICAL AND POPULAR MUSIC IN THIS ART FORM. GROUP ORIGINALLY APPROACHED CADEC FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING

NEWER AND MORE COMPLETE SET OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. CADEC GIVES HIGH EVALUATION TO BOTH CHARACTER AND MOTIVATION OF PARTICIPANTS; GROUP WOULD EXPECT TO OBTAIN 25 PERCENT MATCHING GRANT FROM OWN FUNDS AND OTHER DONORS. GRANT WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE IMPACT ON COMMUNITY BY ENCOURAGING WIDER ACCEPTANCE OF INDIGENOUS MUSIC AND CULTURE AND BY PROVIDING OUTLET FOR ENERGIES AND EFFORTS OF TALENTED LOCAL PEOPLE. ESTIMATE HIGH IMPACT VALUE FOR EMBASSY BECAUSE OF PUBLIC PERFORMANCES.

2. SINCE EMBASSY MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL PROJECTS AVAILABLE THIS MONTH, WE REQUEST THAT PROCEDURES BE INITIATED FOR EXPENDITURE OF PORTION OF ADDITIONAL \$15,000 WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS AVAILABLE. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE AID COMMENTS ON CADEC LOAN PROPOSAL FOR SOLARDYNAMICS PROJECT ABOVE.
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